

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-3206
on its own motion, to administer)
the Nebraska Internet Enhancement) ORDER AWARDING GRANTS
Fund.)
) Entered: May 5, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") opened the above-captioned docket, on its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund ("NIEF") established by the Legislature pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §§ 86-579 (Cum. Supp. 2018) through 86-580 (Reissue of 2014). The Commission in an order issued on October 29, 2019, adopted grant forms and established a schedule for the 2019-2020 application process and award under the NIEF Grant Program.

The Commission received twelve pre-applications. On December 17, 2019, the Commission entered an order inviting the following pre-applicants to submit full applications: Rural Juniata, Glenwood Telecommunications; Dawes County, Mobius Communications; Garden County, Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC; Deuel County, Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC. All applications were received on or before February 26, 2020.

The NIEF Advisory Board (NIEF Board) reviewed the above-mentioned applications during its April 20, 2020, meeting. In a letter dated April 28, 2020, the NIEF Board recommended that Deuel County and Dawes County each be awarded a NIEF grant in the amount of \$25,000. In addition, the NIEF Board recommended that the Commission refrain from awarding the remaining fund balance until a later date. In the letter, the NIEF Board felt each project complied with the grant guidelines and awarding multiple smaller grants would allow multiple projects to begin improving rural access.

The Commission has reviewed the applications submitted and finds that the proposed projects are consistent with the statutory purpose and goals of the NIEF program. Furthermore, the proposed projects will provide financial assistance in the areas in which the provision of the internet and advanced telecommunications services are particularly costly due to factors including population scarcity and location remoteness. Furthermore, the Commission finds that the proposed projects are economically viable and sustainable, provide benefits to the areas proposed to be served in terms of access to the internet and advanced telecommunications services and will enhance rural development, economic development, education, and telemedicine.

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. C-3206

Page 2

The Commission finds that the following applications should be approved in the amount of \$25,000 each:

Deuel County
Dawes County

The Commission also finds that the remaining fund balance shall not be distributed until after the NIEF Board reconvenes to determine its recommendation as to how the remaining funds should be distributed.

The Commission further finds that pursuant to NIEF guidelines, the grant recipients shall sign a Grant Agreement containing the terms and conditions of the grant, previously approved by the Commission, prior to receiving any grant funds.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned applications be approved for \$25,000 each.

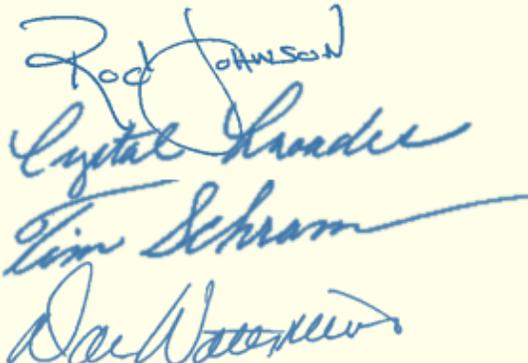
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the remaining funds available for the current grant cycle shall not be distributed until after the NIEF Board has an opportunity to reconvene in order to determine its recommendation as to how the remaining funds should be distributed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the grant recipients shall sign a Grant Agreement, as previously approved by the Commission, containing the terms and conditions of the grant.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of May, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:





Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director